

REMARKS

Claims 1, 16 and 31 have been amended in this paper. Claims 4, 5, 8, 9 and 18-30 have been withdrawn. Claims 1-31 are pending. Applicant kindly requests that this amendment be entered by the examiner.

This Supplemental Response supplements applicant's prior response filed on August 18, 2009 in connection with the final Office action of June 18, 2009. Applicant relies on both papers in response to the examiner's final rejections.

Applicant's representative is grateful for the opportunity to speak to examiner Schmidt via telephone on September 8, 2009. Based on this conversation, to better clarify the claimed invention and to address the examiner's final rejections, applicant has amended the claims to provide, in claim 1 for example, "an uninterrupted polymer coating with a generally constant outside diameter adhering to and contiguous with the at least one of randomized and non-randomized tactile surface contours for at least a portion of the elongated wire core including at least a portion of the tapered distal end...." Claims 16 and 31 have been similarly amended.

Thus, as defined in amended claims 1, 16, and 31, the constant outside diameter contoured coating does not follow the taper of the guide wire core, i.e., it becomes thicker toward the distal end of the guide wire. As noted by applicant in the previous response, none of the cited references individually or in combination discloses or suggests this feature. The claimed invention is therefore not obvious in view of the cited art individually or in combination.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, applicant respectfully submits that all claims are now in condition for allowance. Reexamination and reconsideration of the application are respectfully requested and allowance at an early date is solicited. Applicant invites the

examiner to telephone the undersigned if there are any remaining questions. It is believed that no additional fee is required for the filing of this response. However, if a fee is in fact due, the Commissioner is authorized to charge any fees or costs to our Deposit Account No. 06-2425.

Respectfully submitted,

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